IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a peripheral device detachably coupled to a computer system, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~a)~~ receiving an interrupt from said peripheral device, said peripheral device being coupled to a communications port of said computer system;

~~b)~~ responsive to said interrupt, posting an interrupt notification message to alert a high priority device-specific notification handler, said high priority device-specific notification handler having a higher priority than a system interrupt from said peripheral device without involving said system interrupt notification handler;

~~c)~~ servicing said interrupt notification message upon receipt thereof.

22. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said computer system has a plurality of said high priority device-specific notification handlers installed thereon.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 21 further comprising ~~the step of~~ triggering a default action in the event that said high

priority device-specific notification handler fails to handle said interrupt notification message.

24. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said communications port is a serial communications port.

25. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said peripheral device is a RS-232 peripheral device.

26. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21 further comprising examining a device sense pin of said communications port to determine a voltage thereon.

28. (New) A computer system capable of identifying a peripheral device communicatively coupled thereto, said computer system comprising:

a processor for posting an interrupt notification message to alert a high priority device-specific notification handler in response to an interrupt received from a peripheral device, said high priority device-specific notification handler having a higher priority than a system interrupt notification handler and being

capable of directly servicing an interrupt from said peripheral device without involving said system interrupt notification handler;

a memory coupled to said processor; and

a communications port coupled to said processor, said communications port for receiving said interrupt from said peripheral device.

29. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said computer system has a plurality of said high priority device-specific notification handlers installed thereon.

30. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said processor is operable to trigger a default action in the event that said high priority device-specific notification handler fails to handle said interrupt notification message.

31. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said communications port is a serial communications port.

32. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said peripheral device is a RS-232 peripheral device.

33. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

34. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said communication port comprises a device sense pin of said communications port to determine a voltage thereon.